

DPOA News & Events

DIAMANTE
A PRIVATE MEMBERSHIP GOLF CLUB

Official Newsletter from Your
Diamante Property Owners Association

July 2021, Issue 7

Dear Neighbors!

"Golf is very much like a love affair, if you don't take it seriously, it's no fun, if you do, it breaks your heart. Don't break your heart, but flirt with the possibility," advised Louise Suggs, one of the founders of the LPGA Tour. "Golf puts a man's character on the anvil and his richest qualities—patience, poise, restraint—to the flame," explained Billy Casper. "Golf's three ugliest words—'Still your shot.'" said Dave Marr.

It was an honor and privilege for both Tom Ellers and me to greet the volunteers and attendees to the AFF Golf Scramble, hosted by the Diamante Members Club. Our hats go off to John and Sylvia Mathews and to Jim Bodge for helping coordinate and organize this event. As many of you know, the primary purpose of the AFF Golf Scramble is to raise funds to provide outdoor rehabilitative sporting programs for Arkansas veterans. On a personal note, my grandfather was a World War I veteran, my father was a World War II veteran, and I was a Vietnam era veteran. My family members have always been grateful when offered the opportunity to volunteer for veteran-related events.

As we know, summer is here! Everyone must remain hydrated by drinking plenty of water. The possibility of suffering a heat-stroke is increased if you fail to drink water to stay hydrated.

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On October 2nd, the DPOA will sponsor the 2021 Diamante Calico Pumpkin Fundraiser sale. We are asking all DPOA Members to plan ahead to donate their treasures! Remember, someone's "trash" may be another's treasure!

All of the Diamante residents are looking forward to the upcoming ULAR Collegiate Ladies Golf Tournament, which is scheduled to be played on the Diamante golf course from October 23rd through the 26th. Please take a minute to read the article on page 4 of this newsletter.

Finally, the DPOA Board of Directors continues to thank all of the active Diamante DPOA members for their continued support!!!! ♦ —**Bob Walker, DPOA President**



Treasurer's Report

As of July 6, 2021

Membership

**218 members representing
216 properties and
4 nonresident members
for a total of 220 dues paid**
representing 267 eligible properties

Fund Balances

Funds available for operations:

\$16,460.97

Reserve (emergency) funds:

\$7,500.00

Total funds:

\$23,960.97

If you haven't already done so, please consider becoming an active DPOA member with payment of your \$75.00 annual DPOA dues.

**ALICE
HINCKLEY**



Although the Calico Pumpkin Fundraiser had to be canceled in 2020, we continued to accept donations through the past months and have stored them in a large storage unit. Importantly, we still have room for more donations! Remember, your "trash" may be another's treasure! ♦

—**Donna Fleharty**



The DPOA News & Events newsletter is published monthly and sent only to dues-paying DPOA members. If you have questions, need information, or would like to submit an article of interest, please contact your editor, Dana Peick, or one of the DPOA Board Members.

SAM MEREDITH

Arkansas Chapter PGA

2020 PATRIOT AWARD Recipient

The Patriot Award is presented to a PGA Professional who personifies patriotism through the game of golf and demonstrates unwavering commitment and dedication to the men and women who have valiantly served and protected the United States of America. Both the members and all who are associated with the Diamante Members Club are happy to announce that Sam Meredith is the 2020 recipient of this prestigious award!

Sam has been a PGA member since 1977 and is a Certified PGA Coach, specializing in computer-generated three-dimensional analytics and video training. His career began in 1974 at the War Memorial Golf Course in Little Rock. After working at both the DeSoto and Cortez golf courses in Hot Springs Village and also as the Director of Golf/Head Golf Professional and the General Manager/Director of Golf at two Oklahoma country clubs, Sam was welcomed to Diamante Country Club as its Golf Professional and Player Development Instructor.

Although Sam's career-related accomplishments are many, his

background includes a history of successfully managing club golf operations, delivering strong player development, teaching programs, and recruiting members. He is recognized as a leader, able to train and manage staff to provide a high level of service. "Sam has earned national recognition as a forward thinker in his profession and is a respected teacher among his contemporaries, having developed innovative philosophies for learning a repeating golf swing." Ken MacLeod—*South Central Golf*

Last, but certainly not least, Sam was awarded PGA Professional of the year in both 1994 and 2001 for his overall performance as a golf professional, service to the Association, leadership ability to inspire fellow professionals, and the promotion of golf. This is the highest honor a PGA professional can receive.

Yes, all of us who have known and worked with Sam, as well as sought to improve his or her golf swing, congratulate Sam and thank him for sharing his talents and expertise with the members of Diamante. Take a minute to congratulate Sam the next time you enter the Golf Shop. ♦

—Dana Peick



Diamante Welcomes the UALR Women's Golf Classic in October

After last year's required pause during the pandemic, we will again welcome the university women's golf teams to Diamante.

Scheduled for October 23rd through the 26th of 2021, our Club will welcome the teams from the following 15 universities from all over the United States:

- (1) University of Arkansas at Little Rock;
- (2) University of Central Arkansas;
- (3) Oral Roberts University;
- (4) Bradley University;
- (5) Belmont University;
- (6) University of Texas at Arlington;
- (7) Missouri State University;
- (8) Houston Baptist University;
- (9) Wichita State University;
- (10) University of Louisiana at Monroe;
- (11) Stephen F. Austin University;
- (12) Dixie State University;
- (13) Jacksonville State University;
- (14) Georgia State University; and
- (15) Illinois State University.

Once again, we will extend our hospitality to the coaches and women athletes through housing in the Hot Springs Village community. Each team will require two to three houses to meet the housing requirements, and the hosts will be required to provide a light breakfast each morning. We will be providing a group meal for both the athletes and hosts at Diamante on the evening of Saturday, October 23rd, and a Diamante take-out meal on Sunday, the 24th. Monday evening will be a meal provided by the host families or another Diamante take-out dinner.

This year, Glenda and Fred Bean are serving as housing coordinators and are looking forward to another great tournament. If you have not been contacted concerning housing but would like to participate, please contact either Glenda or Fred (see contact information below).

Housing a team is simple and a perfect way to show your school spirit if you attended any one of the participating universities! ♦

—Glenda and Fred Bean

Glenda Bean—E-mail address: gpbean@suddenlink.net; Telephone: (501) 626-2573

Fred Bean—E-mail address: fbean@suddenlink.net; Telephone: (501) 681-0243



Entire Trojan Roster Is Named the 2019-2020 WGCA All-America Scholars

Once again, the incredible efforts in the classroom at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock (UALR) have paid off. The Trojans have been named to the 2019-2020 Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-American Scholar Team, which consists of the top 25 teams with the highest cumulative team grade point average (GPA). The UALR team's GPA of 3.89 ranks fifth nationally and is the highest in the Sun Belt Conference. In addition, this significant tribute marks the sixth time in the last seven seasons that UALR has had at least five golfers who have been recognized with this prestigious honor.

The group was led by senior Thea Wakeford-Wesmann, who finishes her Trojan career, having been named a WGCA All-America Scholar in each of her four seasons of competition. In addition, this Oslo, Norway, native graduated in May with a degree in economics and boasted a 3.975 GPA during her time at UALR. Sophomores Sydney

Scraba, Malena Austerslaatt, Kellie Gachaga, and Tilde Bocker, were each named to the All-America Scholar Team for the second time after each received the honor as freshmen. All four boasted a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher with Austerslaatt, Bocker, and

Gachaga all registering a perfect 4.0 during their UALR years of competition.

The academic honors for UALR are another in a long line of accolades as the team boasted a department record of 3.95 GPA during the Spring semester of 2020, coming off a 3.83 mark in the Fall. As a team, the Trojans' combined cumulative GPA is 3.93, making it one of the highest in the country.

The five selections are tied for the second highest in program history, one shy of the six All-America Scholar selections in 2019. The Trojans had five golfers named to the prestigious team in 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018.

Founded in 1983, the WGCA is a nonprofit organization representing women's collegiate golf coaches. The WGCA represents over 600 coaches throughout the United States and is dedicated to educating, promoting, and recognizing its members and the student athletes they represent.

The criteria for the selection to the All-American Scholar Team are some of the most stringent in all of college athletics with the minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. A total of 1401 student athletes were recognized for their academic achievements in 2019-2020. ♦



The above five players on the UALR Trojan roster have been awarded the prestigious honor of being WGCA All-America Scholars for 2019-2020 with a cumulative GPA of 3.93, making it one of the highest in the country. (Form right to left: Thea Wakeford-Wesmann, Sydney Scraba, Malena Austerslaatt, Kellie Gachaga, and Tilde Bocker.)

Maintenance

Trimming Our Ditches!

Throughout July, Roy Marsh and I have been busy trimming the ditches with our tractors. Hopefully, this project will be completed in the next couple of weeks. We thank each DPOA member for their annual dues, which makes our projects possible. The good news is that we are on budget for this year's mowing and trimming!

The DPOA Maintenance group of volunteers also works to maintain our entrances. We hope when you enter Diamante you realize that our community is a very special place.

Finally, I have contracted to have the shrubs trimmed at our entrances. We hope you enjoy the beauty of your neighborhood. ♦

—Neil Phelan

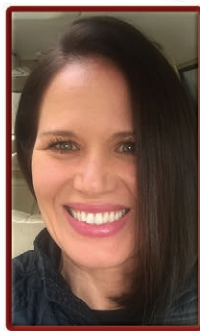


Adrienne Paschke

Food and Beverage Director

Moving to Arkansas from Wisconsin and, specifically, to Diamante has been nothing short of miraculous. In September of 2019, my family moved to the Village with no connections, no family, and no job... only the desire to flee the cold. Some call this move a midlife crisis. I prefer to spin it as a midlife ADVENTURE.

One day, while at the Coronado Library, a gentleman with a Diamante shirt said, "I'm from Wisconsin too." He then pointed me to Diamante for employment. When I walked through the doors of this beautiful club, I said to the previous Food and Beverage Director, "I know I'm supposed to work here. Do you have any job openings?" The rest, as they say, is history. I was a server for a month before I became the assistant to the Food and Beverage Director. I then became the Director in January of 2020. Before working at



Diamante, I home schooled my five daughters, two of whom with special needs. I cooked 90% of our meals from scratch... eating fresh healthy foods is very important to me. I tried to garden and had chickens, but I hated weeding, and free-range chickens kept the food chain intact.

"The strong sense of community and family is what I love most about Diamante. When you walk through these doors, I want you to feel loved, cared for, special, and have a happy belly. I also enjoy planning your event and helping you create special memories, as well as encouraging a caring and fun-loving culture in our staff members." ♦



Protect Your Home From Break-Ins!

More than 3.5 million burglaries occur each year in the United States. In more than 1 million of these, a household member was present at the time. Statistics such as these can make homeowners feel vulnerable. Fortunately, you can take the following steps to beef up your home's security and to prevent break-ins.

- ❑ Install motion-sensing outdoor lights around the perimeter of your house to stop prowlers in their tracks.
- ❑ If you recently bought a new flat-screen television or a fancy computer, do not simply drop the empty cartons by the curb next to your trash container. Break down the boxes, and bag them until your trash is picked up, or cart them off to the recycling center.
- ❑ Close your garage door each time you enter or exit your home. If you frequently forget to do this, consider getting an automatic garage door closer or a smart garage door that can be controlled from your smartphone.
- ❑ According to statistics from the Burglary Prevention Council, 34% of burglars gain entry through the front door. If your front door is left ajar, and your keys and other valuables are in plain sight, then you are giving thieves more reasons to break inside.
- ❑ Install outdoor security cameras near entry points of your home, which will enable you to watch a break-in in real time on your connected monitor or, if needed, to contact your Block Captain or send it to our law enforcement agency.
- ❑ Although home automation can be expensive and comes with the risk of hacking, installing a few affordable, security-enhancing features is still a good idea. For

example, smart bulbs can be installed in porch lights and set to automatically light up at certain times of the night. You may also want to install smart door locks that let you remotely open and close a door to grant access to a guest or to a housekeeper.

- ❑ Prevent burglars from coming in through your windows by installing window stops on double-hung windows. These mechanisms will allow a window to be kept slightly up for ventilation without fear of a break-in.
- ❑ A home without a security system is three times more likely to be broken into than a home with one, according to the National Council for Home Safety and Security. Installing a home security system—and displaying the associated security sign—is an effective deterrent. If a burglar breaks in, then the alarm may scare him off. The security company will typically call you to make sure you are safe, and the police can be dispatched, if necessary.
 1. Even fake security system signs and stickers will cause the average intruder to think twice about trespassing, but canny cat burglars may look up the names and service regions of the companies listed on decoy displays. If you display a fake “Protected by ADT” or any other brand-name

sign or sticker, then replace it with a generic equivalent to keep burglars guessing about who is protecting your property.

2. If a burglar is undeterred by your security sign, he may attempt to disable your security system by cutting the wires. Conceal the exterior wires in electrical conduits to make it harder for prowlers to find them.



Neighborhood Watch—Protect Your Home From Break-Ins! Continued from page 7

- ❑ Are you still hanging your car keys on a wall-mounted key holder in the foyer? You may want to relocate keys to your bedroom, preferably within arm's reach of your bed. This way, if you hear someone in your garage, you can quickly hit the panic button on the key fob to sound the car alarm and scare off the intruder. Do not leave your keys in your car!
- ❑ Do you want the security benefits of a guard dog without the barking, walking, training, and cleanup? Display a "Beware of Dog" sign or dog food bowls near your front or back door or along the front fence.
- ❑ If you are going to be gone on an extended trip, then ask the post office to hold your mail, or ask a trustworthy neighbor to collect it while you are away.
- ❑ An overgrown lawn and shaggy shrubs are signals that your home is unoccupied, and they also provide a place to hide out on your property. Mow your lawn and trim your shrubs and tree branches, or hire a professional to do so, before you leave your home.
- ❑ Never hide the spare key to your house under a convenient rock, beneath a flowerpot on the front porch, or inside the mailbox. Avoid these not-so-hidden hiding spots, and leave your key with a neighbor, or stash it in an outdoor lockbox for safekeeping.
- ❑ If you put your name on your house or mailbox, then burglars can use your name to look up and call your telephone number to see whether you are home.
 1. If a burglar has your name, they can also convince neighbors that they know you, solicit information about you, or even gain entry into your home if your neighbor has your spare key.
 2. Sharing your vacation plans on social media announces to everyone in your network of the hundreds of virtual acquaintances that your home is unoccupied—a major security mistake. So, keep mum about that upcoming trip to Maui until you have returned home, then post away!
- ❑ On trash day, prowlers often keep their eyes peeled for homes that skip putting out their garbage. Politely ask a neighbor to put out your trash every so often while you are away.
- ❑ Some burglars will knock on your door to see whether anyone is home. If you open it, they may try to invite themselves in by offering you a product or a compelling story. Installing a peephole at eye level on your front door is a simple and inexpensive precaution.
- ❑ If you regularly leave your curtains and blinds open, burglars are free to window shop and pick out possessions they would like to pilfer. To keep your belongings safe, draw your curtains and close your blinds when you are away.
- ❑ If you will be away from home for more than 1 day, leave a car parked in your driveway—it is a sure sign that someone is home. Importantly, be sure to remove the garage door opener and any other valuables before you lock the car. Again, do not leave your keys in your car.
- ❑ Homeowners let housekeepers, contractors, and handymen pass through their front doors all the time. Although most are trustworthy, do not hesitate to ask for identification before hiring a professional.
- ❑ Get to know your next-door neighbors, not only to strengthen the Diamante community ties, but also to keep an eye on each other's home when either of you are away for long periods.
- ❑ If worse comes to worst and you have a break-in, then ensure that your small valuables such as jewelry, stock certificates, life insurance policies, and passports are in a fireproof safe and that the safe is in a closet wall.
- ❑ An intruder will often sell for cash some or all of the items stolen during a burglary. If your name is etched onto valuables, then they will be less likely to take them because they will not be worth as much upon resale.
- ❑ Lastly, during a break-in, identity theft is as concerning as property theft. Sensitive documents such as bank statements and credit card bills contain personal data that intruders can use. Either shred them or make sure they are filed away and out of sight. ♦ **—Heidi Hilbert**

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

MICHELLE AND WADE HERGUTH

Wade and Michelle Herguth moved to Hot Springs Village in December of 2020 from The Woodlands, Texas, and they were excited to join the Diamante community. “We did a thorough search for the right place to retire, and we knew after the first visit that this was the right place for us!” Most likely, Michelle and Wade chose to live in the Diamante neighborhood for the same reasons that we all chose this special place. Simply stated, it has so much to offer.

Originally from the Midwest, they have also lived in Kansas City, Kansas; Annapolis, Maryland; Davenport, Iowa; and Appleton, Wisconsin. Wade is a retired sales executive from Lafarge North America, an international cement company, and Michelle is a retired schoolteacher and consultant, who specialized in children transitioning from preschool to kindergarten. They have two grown children—a daughter who lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and a son in Durham, North Carolina. “We have also been blessed with two granddaughters.”

Both Wade and Michelle are active road trippers, both extended and local day trips. Wade is the golfer in the family and also enjoys working in the yard, hiking, and swimming, as well as fishing and hunting. Michelle enjoys reading a good book while sitting outside, watching the birds,

and enjoying the tranquility of the yard. She has joined the Hot Springs New Horizons Band and plays the oboe.

“We are meeting many neighbors and members of Diamante and others throughout the Village. We have been welcomed by many and appreciate how quickly we have become part of the Diamante Club and community! We look forward to continuing to meet new friends and to experience some of the many activities offered in Hot Spring Village. ♦



“We are meeting many neighbors and members of Diamante and others throughout the Village. We have been welcomed by many and appreciate how quickly we have become part of the Diamante Club and community!”



During the last 30 months, I've written approximately 20 articles about the U.S. Flag and military matters. I thought I would take a little break and share some interesting insights about the inner workings of Diamante.

Driving Range

One of the things I like about Diamante is our driving range. In particular, the golf balls on our driving range are in perfect or near-perfect condition. This is a marked difference from other courses I've practiced on over the past 60 years. I must have been looking for a psychic confidence booster as I robotically culled out the newest-looking practice balls for unleashing those fierce drives I prayed for. Whatever the reason, the sorting element was part of my practice routine. That's no longer the case. Fortunately, the practice balls here at Diamante are always pristine.

When I started reflecting on the quality of Diamante's practice balls, I thought I would gather some facts. With my trusty rangefinder, I measured our driving range. Turns out, our practice range is 90 yards wide and approximately 300 yards deep. That's 27,000 square yards, or 243,000 square feet, or 5.6 square acres with SIX greens, flags, and aiming areas at various distances.

On the busy days when hitting off "real" grass, up to 40 members can be safely spaced for simultaneous practicing. Assuming the placement of 100 balls at each station, this would account for nearly 4,000 balls in

play at once. These balls get attacked with varying frequency and ferocity multiple times per day. Imagine what a formidable task it is to: (1) gather the balls from the driving range, (2) run these through the ball washer, (3) let them dry, and then (4) return them to the driving range or the chipping and pitching areas multiple times per day! An annual estimation of practice balls handled by the Outside Services staff would approximate the following: 4,000 balls a day x 270 good golfing days a year = 1,080,000 balls washed per year. Over the life of our 26-year-old ball washer, that's a staggering 28,080,000 golf balls washed! Perhaps it's time to upgrade our golf-ball-washing machine!

Similar to the periodic replacement of club carts to maintain Diamante's "country club" appeal, driving range balls must also be replaced when they are no longer in A-1 condition. The question is: What happens to these balls?

Like every premier private club, if the balls don't pass muster, they are set aside and ultimately sold to a smaller public golf course or driving range happy to get usable driving range balls at a bargain. I found out that the most recent batch of "rejected" golf balls was sold to Essex Golf Course in Hot Springs. Having never heard of this course, I contacted the owners of Essex, Guy and Sheila Collins, for details. Guy remembers buying two batches of balls from Diamante, while Sheila mentioned writing a check to Diamante for the most recent batch. Following this used golf

Behind the Scene at Diamante Continued from page 10

ball trail, I spoke with Diamante's former controller, Carla Decker, an employee of 4 years, who confirmed depositing the recent check into Diamante's checking account and crediting the Golf Shop with "miscellaneous revenue." As a CPA since 1973, I still think in these terms! So, the circle is complete.

Golf Professionals' Attire, Equipment, and Accoutrements

As I was watching the British Open earlier this month, I couldn't help noticing the bags, hats, gloves, clubs, shoes, and shirts of the various competitors. Almost every square inch that could possibly be displayed was covered with sponsored logos. And why not? Each brand is vying to sell more of its product, while most golf professionals have long enjoyed special relationships with various brands introducing and promoting their products. Of course, this led me to ponder how sponsorship works at the local level, such as Diamante Country Club. A few months ago, I was fitted by Marcus Bougard, the regional Mizuno representative. Ultimately, I decided against purchasing this year's model because my clubs weren't that old. However, I was impressed with Marcus who was an accomplished club fitter, very professional, and pleasant to work with. I recently contacted Marcus about how various brands work with local pros. He said that each of the brands, such as

Mizuno, has approximately 200 accounts. He further explained that when he is particularly impressed with an assistant golf pro or a head golf pro, he will invite them to be a brand ambassador. Out of Mizuno's 200 accounts, Diamante's golf pro ranked in the top FIVE.

Being an ambassador means that the pro is provided detailed information about the brand's products and why (in the brand's view) their product is superior to the competition. If the pro is a particularly good golfer who is expected to score well in local, regional, and national events, then the pro may be provided free or discounted gloves, hats, shirts, clubs, and shoes, among other products. Marcus told me it simply makes sense that their ambassador representatives play the brand's clubs (i.e., Mizuno, Titleist, Callaway). Marcus mentioned that over the years, many former Diamante golf pros represented Mizuno as ambassadors, including Mark Wyllie, Justin Hyman, and others. He indicated this was a normal process within the golf merchandising business.

I was hoping our lengthy July 12 conversation on this topic would prompt Marcus to consider me as Diamante's new Mizuno ambassador. He didn't. Sad. I could use new clubs.

Perhaps next issue of the DPOA newsletter, I can talk about bunkers and the mystery of missing rakes. ♦ **—Dennis Riordan**



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Step into the "Did You Know?" time machine, and travel back to the year 2001. Let's take a peek at what was happening at Diamante and with its members. Happy reading!

- 1** Linda Singletery and her duplicate bridge partner, Lillian Estes, competed in the North American Pairs National Finals on March 24th and 25th. To qualify for the Kansas City, Missouri, event, Linda and Lillian won locally and then at the District 10 Nate Silverstein Bridge Tournament in Memphis, Tennessee. In an update from Linda, she reported that she and Lillian had a marvelous time, even though they didn't win. They finished a respectable 30th place out of approximately 300 teams.
- 2** The DWGA18 planned a garage sale for April 7 to provide funds for their Member/Guest Tournament. President BJ Conner asked members to save all their items for this event and to contact Jan Schaefer if they had any questions.
- 3** The Couples Bridge results for February were: 1st place, Pete and Margaret Johnson; 2nd place, Howie and Bev Watson; 3rd place, Danny and Sandra Snyder; 4th place, George and Therese Mahowald; and 5th place, Raymond and Cherri Bennett.
- 4** Golf course superintendent, Arthur Jamison, and his crew installed the four-sided, 16-foot tall clock beside the putting green early in the year. Jimmy Johnson, who lived on the hole #11 fairway, was the sponsor and primary contributor to this beautiful Diamante addition. Many other Diamante members, as well as the Parseekers of Diamante, which was the early name for the DPOA, also donated funds.
- 5** The 2001 Diamante Advisory Board members and officers held their first meeting on January 10th with outgoing Chair, Paul Day, conducting the election of new officers as his last official act. He received a standing ovation, thanking him for his 3-year term of service. The 2001 board consisted of Chair, Howie Watson; Vice Chair, Charlie Johnson; Secretary, Janet Willis; Membership Chair, Dean Moffitt, Golf Chair, Merle Singletery; House Chair, Danny Snyder; Social Chair, Cherri Bennett; Public Relations Chair, Jim Russell; Rules and Regulations Chair, Tom Curtis; and Tennis Chair, Kathie Ritchie. ♦

—Jeanne Godbold

